

14th November 2025

The Mortimer Federation of St. John's and St. Mary's Schools

Newsletter

TERM DATES

Please see below a list of term dates which we trust you will find of use. Event details will be provided nearer the time.

Tuesday 18th November – Mortimer St. John's Parent/Carer Coffee Morning – 8.45am until 9.45am

Tuesday 18th November – Junior Music Festival

Wednesday 19th November – Bradfield Netball Tournament

Thursday 20th November – Year 3 trip to Butser Ancient Farm

Monday 24th November – Year 5 Planetarium Visit

Friday 28th November – Non-uniform day

Friday 28th November – Mortimer St. John's School Discos, Year 1 - 4.30pm until 5.30pm, Year 2 - 6.00pm until 7.00pm

Tuesday 2nd December - Mortimer St. Mary's Parent/Carer Coffee Morning – 9.00am until 10.00am

Wednesday 3rd December – Year 1 'Great Fire of London' Parent Share – 2.45pm until 3.15pm

Wednesday 3rd December – PTFA Christmas Wreath Making Event – St. John's Village Hall – 7.30pm

Friday 5th December – Year 3 Health and Wellbeing workshop

Friday 5th December – PTFA Christmas Fair – Mortimer St. John's – 3.00pm until 5.30pm

Tuesday 9th December – Foundation Stage Production – 9.30am

Tuesday 9th December and Thursday 11th December – Year 3/Year 4 Production – 6.00pm

Wednesday 10th December – Year 3/Year 4 Production – 9.30am

Thursday 11th December - Mortimer St. John's (Year 1 and Year 2) Christmas Service – St. John's Church – 2.00pm

Friday 12th December - Christmas Celebration Day including Christmas Lunch and Christmas Parties

Tuesday 16th December – Orthoptist to visit Foundation Stage children

Tuesday 16th December – Year 5 'Reach for the Stars' Parent Share – 9.15am until 10.15am

Tuesday 16th December – Mortimer St. Mary's Christmas Service – St. Mary's Church – 2.00pm

Thursday 18th December – End of term – Mortimer St. Mary's - 1.30pm, Mortimer St. John's - 2.00pm.

Monday 5th January – Spring Term Begins

COFFEE MORNING

You are invited to join Mrs Rook and Mrs Cooper (Pastoral Lead) on Tuesday 18th November at 8.45am until 9.45am at Mortimer St. John's or Miss Pearson and Mrs Cooper on Tuesday 2nd December at 9.00am at MSM for a cuppa and a biscuit! We understand it takes a village to raise a child and we would love our school community to be a positive part of this and be there for each other. We are looking for any ideas of extra pastoral support we could make available for the year ahead too, so please come with any ideas you might have.

COATS

Now that the weather has become more autumnal please can you ensure that your child comes to school with a coat. **Can all coats please be named**
Thank you.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Please ensure if your child/ren are having a school lunch, that these are ordered in advance on SchoolGrid. In recent weeks, a number of children have not placed orders. An order must be placed by 8.55am (Mortimer St. John's) or 9.15am (Mortimer St. Mary's) to ensure the cooks, within both schools, are able to provide a meal. Thank you in advance of this.

WEST BERKSHIRE FOODBANK – THANK YOU

The West Berkshire Foodbank would like to say a great big thank you for the kind donations from parents/carers/staff, that were collected as part of The Mortimer Federation Harvest Festival celebrations. In total 103.8kg of food and essentials were donated, providing 218 meals, helping to feed 10 people with three meals a day for 7 days. You are all amazing, thank you.



DOG MESS

Please could we remind all parents and carers to clear up after your dog. Unfortunately, dogs mess has been left behind outside Mortimer St. John's where a dog has been secured while dropping off/picking up from school. Thank you for your support.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE FOR YEAR 1 AND 2

All parents/carers/grandparents, etc. are invited to attend our Key Stage 1 Christmas Service at St. John's Church on Thursday 11th December at 2.00pm. Please be aware that the Foundation Stage children will not be taking part in the service.

MORTIMER ST. MARY'S CAROL SERVICE

All parents/carers/grandparents, etc. are invited to attend our Key Stage 2 Christmas Service at Mortimer St. Mary's Church on Tuesday 16th December at 2.00pm.

PTFA CHRISTMAS FAIR

The PTFA will be holding a Christmas Fair at Mortimer St. John's on Friday 5th December, 3.30pm until 5.30pm. Please come and join us for some festive fun. You may be lucky and win on the tombola or raffle or even the lucky dip, or you may prefer to take part in some crafts or enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a delicious cake or two! Refreshments will be available to purchase in the playground from 3.00pm.

Non-Uniform Day

In support of the Christmas Fair, the children are invited to come into school on Friday 28th November wearing non-uniform (**we would appreciate your support in not allowing the children to wear football kits/rugby kits/sports kits**). Please can the children bring a donation for the Fair, for further details please see the attached posters (Mortimer St. John's Chocolate Tombola, Mortimer St. Mary's Rainbow donations). **Please do not donate any items containing nuts.** All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Donations

If you have any unwanted children's 'party bag' toys such as pencils, rubbers, bouncy balls etc that you are willing to donate, please could you take these to either school office. The PTFA are also looking for donations of unwanted artificial Christmas trees and decorations to use at the Christmas Fair. Please could you take any donations to either school office by the 28th November. Thank you

Volunteers

To help make this event a success and raise much needed funds to support the children at The Mortimer Federation, the PTFA are seeking volunteers. If you are able to spare an hour or two to help out on the day please sign up via Classlist - ([Sign up here!](#)) Thank you in advance for your support.

Cakes and Bakes

Further details to follow in due course.

FOUNDATION STAGE PRODUCTION

The Foundation Stage Production of 'Once Upon a Mix-Up' will take place on **Tuesday 9th December at 9.30am**. Doors will open at 9.15am, the production will finish at approximately 10.15am.

Due to the space available within the school hall, we would request that no more than two adults per child attend the production. Younger siblings can attend if required (seated on an adult's lap). We would ask that if younger siblings attend, and they become restless, they are removed so as not to spoil the production for the children and other parents/carers.

Please note that all buggies or similar items need to be left in a sensible place outside the school building. Thank you.

YEAR 3/YEAR 4 CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION

The Year 3/Year 4 Christmas production of 'It's Christmas' will be taking place on Tuesday 9th December (6.00pm), Wednesday 10th December (9.30am) and Thursday 11th December (6.00pm). A letter containing further information including details of how to obtain tickets will be forwarded, via ParentMail, to the parents/carers of children in Year 3/Year 4 in due course.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Friday 12th December the children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers to school, together with their school uniform, they will also be enjoying their Christmas dinner and a Christmas party. We would request a donation of £1.00.

THE MORTIMER FEDERATION CHRISTMAS CARD POST

The Mortimer Federation Christmas card postal services will be operational from Monday 1st December! If your child wishes to send Christmas cards to their school friends, they should post them in the post box located outside the office at Mortimer St. John's or within the school hall at Mortimer St. Mary's. **Please write the recipient's class as well as their full name on the envelope.** Thank you.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU

The children will be enjoying Christmas dinner on Friday 12th December. If you would like your child to have Christmas dinner please order in the usual way via SchoolGrid. Please can all orders be placed by Monday 1st December to ensure the Christmas dinner is ordered for your child/ren! Thank you.



YEAR 2 - MORTIMER ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION

During the afternoon of Monday 8th December, the Year 2 children will be going to Mortimer St. Mary's to watch the Year 3/Year 4 Christmas production of 'It's Christmas'. We will walk the children to Mortimer St. Mary's. Parents/carers will need to collect their child/ren from the **courtyard at Mortimer St. Mary's at 3:10pm**. If your child/ren attend The Oaks after school club at Mortimer St. John's, the Year 2 staff can walk with your child/ren back to Mortimer St. John's, however, **we will require your written permission**. Please email the school office (officemsj@mortimerschools.org) providing your consent. Thank you

If you are able to help us to walk children to Mortimer St. Mary's please could you contact the school office or alternatively speak to Mrs Roberts, Miss Wood-Griffiths or Mrs Webb. You will be required to have a DBS obtained via the school or be registered with the DBS Update Service. Thank you

DOLCE CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Please see below information regarding a Christmas Card Design Competition being run by Dolce (school caterers). The children are invited to design an A4 Christmas picture using paint, crayons or chalk. Please remember to write your child's full name, age and school on the reverse of their design. The national winning picture will be made into a Christmas card and given to the winning child, in the form of a pack of Christmas cards which can then be sent to friends and family. The winner will also receive an iPad. All entries need to be returned to the school office by 9.00am on Tuesday 19th November.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Please see the attached information regarding the Christmas Bazaar being held at St. John's Church, Mortimer on Saturday 22nd November.

CLUBS

The last session of all clubs, including clubs run by external organisations, will take place the week commencing Monday 24th November. We will be sending information regarding clubs for the Spring term via ParentMail shortly.

FACE FAMILY ADVICE

Please see the attached information with regards to upcoming events from Face Family Advice.

PTFA FUNDRAISING EVENT

We are delighted to advise that The Hatch Gate and Burghfield Spices are supporting The Mortimer Federation by generously donating all profits raised on Wednesday 19th November to our schools. If you feel like a night off from cooking and fancy a curry, why not place an order (eat-in, take away or delivery), however, do not forget to mention the code '**School Fundraising**'. Thank you for your support helping the PTFA to raise much needed funds to support the children attending our schools.



ALL YOURS

Please see the attached letter from 'All Yours' including support for families with period products and workshops for dads.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Please see the attached information regarding local activities and events